

Serial No. 10/678,643

Amendment Dated: January 30, 2006

Reply to Office Action Mailed: September 29, 2005

Attorney Docket No. 095309.52833US

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Cancelled)

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) A vehicle covering component, comprising

[[a]] an elongate support element adapted to be fastened to the vehicle with an adhesive material joint; and

[[a]] an elongate visible element which can be connected to the support element by snapping it in place; wherein,

at least one of the support element and the visible element comprises at least two discrete parts;

the support element comprises a number of parts which differs from a number of parts that form the visible element; [[.]]

each part of the support element includes a plurality of discrete attachment points distributed along a longitudinal direction thereof, for connection of said visible element; and

in an installed state of said vehicle covering component, said parts of the support element abut one another lengthwise, forming a substantially continuous support structure with said attachment points distributed along the longitudinal direction thereof.

Claim 3. (Previously Presented) The vehicle covering part according to Claim 2, wherein the support element includes means for fastening it to a vehicle body with an adhesive material joint.

Claim 4. (Previously Presented) The vehicle covering part according to Claim 3, wherein the support element has at least one layer of glue on its side for fastening to the vehicle.

Claim 5. (Previously Presented) The vehicle covering part according to Claim 4, wherein the layer of glue is designed as a double-sided adhesive tape.

Claim 6. (Previously Presented) A vehicle covering component, comprising

a support element adapted to be fastened to the vehicle with an adhesive material joint; and

a visible element which can be connected to the support element by snapping it in place; wherein,

the visible element has a plurality of discrete snap-in projections formed at a plurality of connection points that are arranged consecutively along a longitudinal axis of the visible element, and are spaced apart from one another; and

the support element has a corresponding plurality of discrete snap-in sockets arranged in a complementary manner.

Claim 7. (Previously Presented) The vehicle covering part according to Claim 6, wherein the snap-in projections and the snap-in sockets are arranged in a central overlapping region on respective snap-in connecting sides of the visible element and of the support element.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) The vehicle covering part according to Claim 6, wherein consecutive connecting points are spatially offset with respect to one another, alternatingly, in a transverse direction of the conveying part.

Claim 9. (Previously Presented) The vehicle covering part according to Claim 6, wherein the snap-in sockets form passage openings and are arranged recessed with respect to that side of the support element that is provided for fastening to the vehicle.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) The vehicle covering part according to Claim 6, wherein the support element has a snap-in connecting side that is provided with a surface structure which increases stiffness.

Claim 11. (Previously Presented) The vehicle covering part according to Claim 6, wherein the support element has a snap-in connecting side that is provided with at least one protruding receiving rail in which the discrete snap-in sockets are arranged longitudinally consecutively in a completely integrated manner.

Claim 12. (Previously Presented) The vehicle covering part according to Claim 11, wherein the support element has, on its snap-in connecting side, at least one bearing contact surface which centers the visible element in a defined installation position.

Claim 13. (Previously Presented) The vehicle covering part according to Claim 12, wherein the bearing contact surface of the support element causes

position-stabilizing prestress of the visible element when it is in an installation position and is connected by having been snapped in place.

Claim 14. (Previously Presented) The vehicle covering part according to Claim 9, wherein the snap-in connections on the side of the support element that is provided for fastening to the vehicle are detachable by a resilient movement of one of the snap-in projections and the snap-in sockets.

Claim 15. (Previously Presented) The vehicle covering part according to Claim 6, wherein the support element is completely shielded by the visible element towards the visible side.

Claim 16. (Previously Presented) The vehicle covering part according to Claim 6, wherein an edge on the visible side of the visible element bears flush against an edge on the fastening side of the support element.

Claim 17. (Previously Presented) The vehicle covering part according to Claim 6, wherein an edge on the visible side of the visible element protrudes over an edge on the fastening side of the support element and shields the same on the visible side.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) The vehicle covering part according to Claim 6, wherein a side of the support element which is provided for fastening to the vehicle has an automatically centering transverse surface contour.

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Claim 19. (Previously Presented) The vehicle covering part according to
Claim 6, wherein the covering part is an outer visible part on the vehicle body.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented) The vehicle covering part according to
Claim 6, wherein the covering part is an outer covering part on a wheel housing
edge.

Claim 21. (Previously Presented) The vehicle covering part according to
Claim 6, wherein at least one of the support element and the visible element is
made of plastic.

Claims 22.-24. (Cancelled)